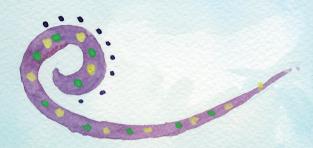


#### Introduction



Ibrahim (Abraham) and Isma'il (Ishmael) were building the Kabah in Makkah, they prayed for a prophet among their descendents.

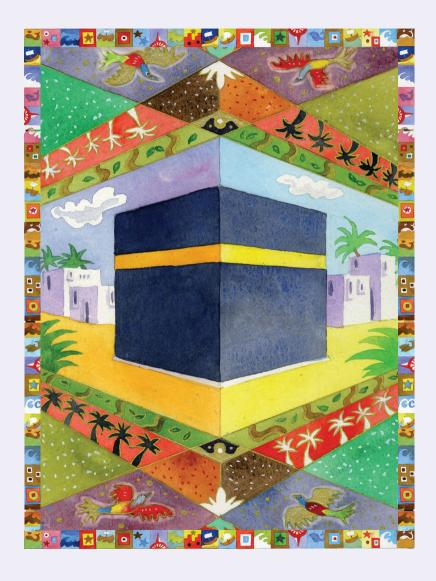




## The History of the Kabah



bout 4000 years ago the Prophet Ibrahim
(Abraham) came to Makkah and settled
his family there. His son, Isma'il (Ishmael) came up and became a great prophet.





son Ismail were fresh in their memory. They always desired and hoped that one day the Zamzam well could be restored.

Since Abd al-Muttalib was in charge of arranging fresh water for the pilgrims, he found it difficult to discharge his duties, as there was

no well near the Kabah. He had to

Makkah and store it in a reservoir

near the Kabah.

For this reason, his desire to restore the

Zamzam well grew.

One day he had

a dream. He saw that someone



climbed the nearby mountains to save themselves from being trampled by the elephants of Abraha.

Abraha's massive army, at the head of which were several large and fierce elephants, approached Makkah. The elephants were roaring with their trunks upward, and the soldiers were chanting and praising their commander and King, Abraha.



By the time they reached Sana in Yemen, most of the strong army men had died on the way. Abraha himself fell sick and passed away soon after arriving at his home in Yemen.





"Charity does not decrease one's wealth.

Nor does humility lower one's prestige. If
one acts humbly for the sake of God, then
God will certainly raise one's rank."

Muslim





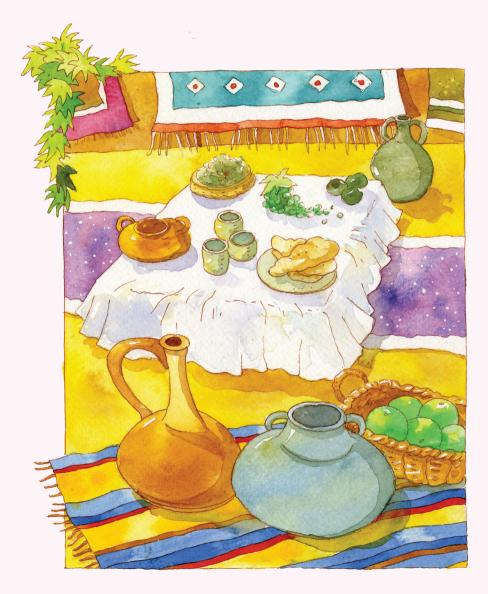


# The Birth of the Prophet



bd al-Muttalib had ten sons, out of which six are well known. They were Al-Abbas, Hamzah, Abu Talib, Abu Lahab, Abdullah and Al-Harith.





homes, she said to her husband, Harith ibn Abdul Uzza, "I am not feeling good about returning home with my friends without taking along a child. So I want to go back and take that orphan child." Her husband said, "I think there is no harm in doing so. Maybe Allah will bless us for this." Therefore, Halima Sadia went to the house of the baby Muhammad. His mother, Aminah then entrusted him to Halima Sadia and she took him with her to be nursed in the desert.

The Prophet Muhammad at that very young age spent little more than two years with the family of Halima Sadia in the desert. The little Muhammad would play freely with Halima's





### The Prophet Marries Khadija



he Prophet Muhammad had been used to working for his living since his early youth. By the time he was 25 years old, he was already well known as an honest and hardworking person. Impressed by these qualities,

Khadija bint Khuwaylid, a wealthy widow of Makkah, hired him to lead her caravan to Syria and sell her goods in the Syrian markets.

The Prophet Muhammad had already made a journey to Syria once earlier with his uncle and he knew the route. He organized the caravan carrying the goods entrusted to him by Khadija very well and once in Syria, conducted the business with great foresight and wisdom, making a fortune for Khadija.





Since his early years the Prophet liked to spend time alone and try to answer the questions coming to his mind: "Who has made this world? Why are people born and why do they die? What is the meaning of their lives? And how to reach the ultimate Truth?"

The Prophet knew that these questions had answers.



Later on, Khadija took the Prophet to meet Waraqah. The Prophet told him of his experience in the cave. After listening to his words, Waraqah said:

"You will be the Prophet to this nation."

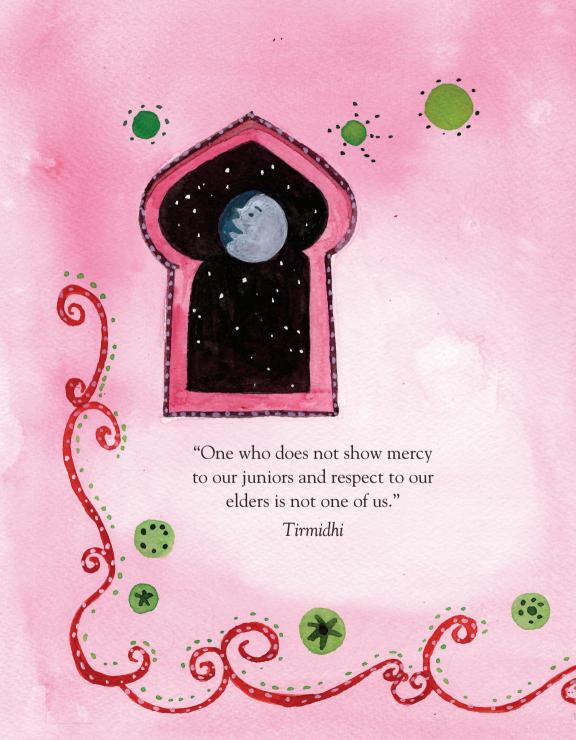
He promised that if he were still alive, he would help in the mission of the Prophet. But Waraqah, being an old, blind man, passed away soon after.

Gradually, the Prophet began to understand the meaning of the revelation. At the same time, he realized that a great responsibility of



With this the total number of Muslims in Makkah rose to 40. This included men, women and children. Now, Islam had come into the limelight in Makkah and people were beginning to talk about it a lot.





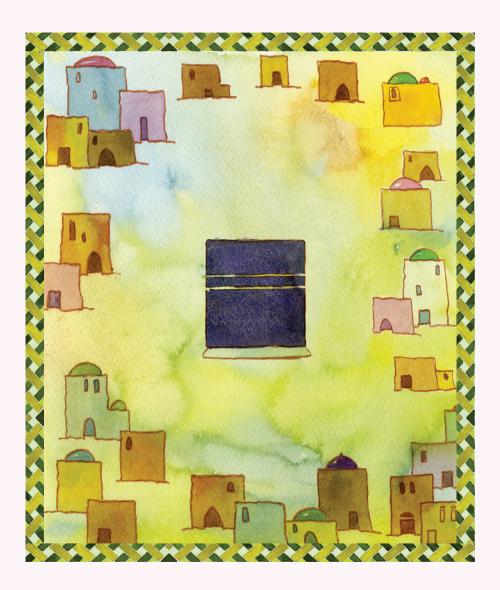
## The Beginning of Difficult Times



rqam ibn al-Arqam, a sixteen-year-old youth, who had recently accepted Islam, lived near the Safa hillock. His house was a bit isolated and there were no neighbours looking to









He then asked, "O people of the Quraysh, if I told you that an army was advancing to attack you from the nearby hills, would you believe me?"

"Yes, we would surely believe you," answered the people, "We have always known you to be truthful."

Having heard their answer, the Prophet then called the different tribes by their name.

"O Banu Abdul Muttalib! O Banu Abd Manaf! O Banu Zuhrah! The way you sleep, you will die. The way you get up from sleep you will





be raised again after death. After that, either there is eternal paradise or eternal hell."

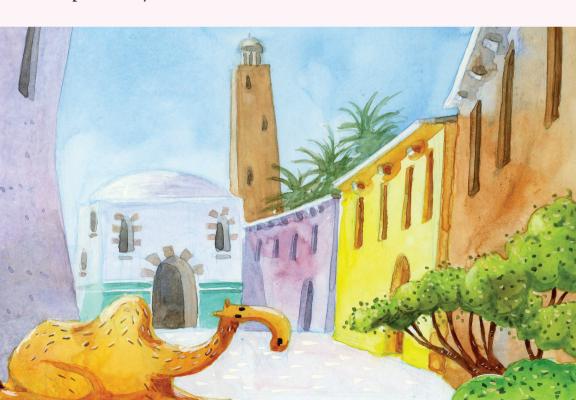
People remained silent on hearing these words.

The Prophet went on and told them, "Allah has made me the Last Prophet to mankind and revealed the Quran to me. We must worship one God and submit ourselves to His will. If you will not do so, you will be accountable on the Day of Judgement, and God will punish you."





Bakr was giving his speech, some of the people of the Quraysh lost their temper. They rained blows on the Prophet and the other Muslims with all their might. Utbah ibn Rabia hit Abu Bakr so hard in the face that he started bleeding profusely. The Muslims were surrounded on







#### The Early Muslims



or almost three years, dawah activities were limited to individual meetings and private circles.

Later, there came a revelation of the Quran which commanded the Prophet Muhammad &



Muhammad's religion," said Sumayyah firmly.

This made Abu Jahl even more furious.

He took some ropes and tied her to a pole. He flogged her so much that she fainted.

In those days slaves had no rights. Since Sumayyah was a slave no one could come to her rescue.

When Abu Bakr came to know about it, he

and set her free by handing over some money. He had already bought six slaves who had accepted

Islam and



"Why you yourself do not accept this message."

"What you are saying seems very pleasant to me," said Maysarah, "but if I accept what you say, my tribe will go against me. And you know that no man can live without the support of his tribe."





reached his home. He called 'Ali ibn Abi Talib and told him that he would leave for Madinah that very day. The Prophet had a sheet from Yemen, which had green lines on it. He gave it to 'Ali and told him to sleep on his bed at night and cover himself with this Yemeni sheet.

The people of Makkah were against the mission of the Prophet but, at the same time, they trusted him and called him Al-Amin, the Honest One. So, they would give him their valuables, such as jewellery, etc. for safe keeping.



He took the Prophet along the banks of Red Sea. Through this was a longer route, it was safe, as no one would follow the Prophet along this unknown path.

After a long journey they finally reached Madinah safely.

